

Public Opinion Poll

Citizen Interest In Vote Gains

By Dr. George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. — Earlier estimates of a record low turnout may have to be revised, as determined by a just-completed Gallup Poll showing voter interest increasing sharply in the final stages of the 1976 presidential campaign.

Two factors have likely contributed to this rise in voter interest, the presidential debates and the increasing closeness of the race.

The latest nationwide survey, completed just three days ago, shows a majority (56 percent) expressing a considerable degree of interest in the election. This represents a four-point increase from the comparable figure recorded in a survey taken just one week earlier and a rise of eight points since the survey taken in late August before the first of the presidential debates. At that time, Democratic challenger Jimmy Carter held a wider lead over President Ford than he does today.

Despite all the discussion about the apathy of voters — and earlier predictions that non-voters will outnumber voters for the first time in 50 years — voter interest is no lower this year than at a comparable time in the 1972 presidential election race when President Richard Nixon was leading Sen. George McGovern by a wide margin.



Dr. Gallup

Close Race Helps

A look at the trend in the voter interest since 1952 shows voter interest to be greater when the presidential race is close. For example, in 1968, when Nixon ran against Sen. Hubert Humphrey and Gov. George Wallace, the proportion of voters who, at this point in the campaign, had indicated they had given "quite a lot" of thought to the election was 64 percent. In 1960 when Sen. John Kennedy ran against Nixon, the comparable figure was 57 percent. In contrast, 1972, 1964, 1956 and 1952, when the races were one-sided, voter interest was less pronounced.

Following is the question asked:

"How much thought have you given to the coming November elections — quite a lot or only a little?"

The 1976 trend shows voter interest increasing steadily during October, from 48 percent who said they had "quite a lot" of interest in a survey conducted the first weekend, to 52 percent the second weekend and 56 percent the third and latest weekend.

Here Is Picture

Here is the latest trend and the results for previous election years at the beginning of October and the final pre-election survey completed during the period Thursday through Saturday prior to the Tuesday election:

	First Weekend	Interim Survey(s)	Final
1976	48%	52-56%	2%
1972	49	52	56
1968	57	64	63
1964	51	54	53
1960	56	57	65
1956	43	49	57
1952	54	55	61

Although the Gallup Poll's final estimates of voter turnout are based on responses to a series of questions, the results of this single question on voter interest have shown a close relationship to actual turnout in the election.

Compares Proportion

The following table compares the proportion in the final Gallup survey (published the day before the election) who say they have given "quite a lot" of thought to the election and the actual voter turnout in the election.

	Percentage Saying They Have "quite A Lot" of Interest (Final Gallup Survey)	Election Turnout (x)
1976	2%	2%
1972	56	56
1968	63	61
1964	59	62
1960	65	63
1956	57	59
1952	61	62

(x) P.C. OF VOTING AGE POPULATION VOTING FOR President

The latest results are based on in-person interviews conducted with 1,430 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in more than 130 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period Oct. 22-25.

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We Hold These Truths... A Chronicle of America

October 28, 1776:

The main 14,500-man American army, entrenched on a line of hills just south of White Plains, New York, is met by a 13,000-man British army under General William Howe. Howe concentrates his attack on lightly-defended Chatterton's Hill. The British gain the hill after heavy fighting, culminating in the war's first cavalry charge — which sends the American defenders scurrying. For the next three days, the two armies face each other without incident, with Washington finally withdrawing northward on November 1 to more defensible positions at North Castle Heights. Foregoing a frontal assault, Howe withdraws southward on November 4 towards Ft. Mifflin, the last American redoubt on Manhattan. Although American casualties at White Plains are only 150 (to 313 for the British), the engagement is indecisive.



— By Ross Mackenzie & Jeff Macnelly, c. 1975, United Feature Syndicate

Rush for Homes In California

Reuters News Agency

LOS ANGELES — After a three-year slowdown in homebuilding caused by the recession and increasingly strict environmental regulations, California is suddenly finding itself in the middle of a buying rush.

When a building company in affluent Orange County to the east of Los Angeles advertised 221 houses for sale earlier this year, 3,000 people applied to buy them.

Resorts to Lottery

Puzzled as to how to handle such a rush of applications, the company decided to hold a lottery for the houses which were priced between \$51,000 and \$96,000 — and 12,000 people turned out to watch the drawing of tickets from a drum.

"I've never seen anything like it in my entire 30 years in the business — even after World War II when houses were very short," says Randall Presley, a leading home builder in Orange County.

Presley says some of his company projects are now being slowed by labor shortages, something unheard of in the badly depressed housing industry of two years ago when thousands of carpenters and builders' laborers were out of work.

Builders say the buying frenzy has been brought on by the small number of houses built during the slump that followed the Arab oil boycott of 1973.

Housing experts say the state needs 235,000 new homes during each of the next five years to keep up with its population increase.

Costs High

But with environmental regulations and the soaring cost of land and

building materials still putting a damper on building, only 150,000 houses a year are being built even now.

For Whom the Bell (System) Tolls

'Phone Phreak' Pays the Piper

By Tim Reiterman Associate Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Not many people go to prison for pursuing a hobby, but a passion for playing with exotic telephone equipment has finally put Captain Crunch in the slammer.

"It's a hobby, like CB radio — it's didding around," the electronics whiz kid says. "Why do I do what I do? To hear a call go through, to hear all that telephone company equipment work for you, that's what you're after. Chirps, bells and tinkles."

Crunch, whose given name is John T. Draper, reflected without regret about his hobby just before driving south to the federal prison at Lompoc, Calif. He started serving a four-month sentence Oct. 4 for defrauding Pacific Telephone Co. of \$30 worth of long distance calls.

'Phone Phreaks'

Draper, 32, has been a legendary member of the mischievous "phone phreaks," whose shenanigans and illegal long distance calls have made them natural enemies of phone companies around the globe.

Phone officials hope that his conviction, and 122 other toll fraud convictions last year, will deter the phreaks and others from cheating the phone company out of an estimated \$1 million in calls each year.

"The phone phreaks say they're just out for thrills, but you can say the same about a bank robber," says Joe Doherty, director of corporate security for American Telephone and Telegraph Co. "He likes to hear the alarms go off . . . but the end result is the same. A bank is robbed. These people are stealing."

Imitate Sound

The essence of phone phreaking is the imitation of electronic sound signals which trigger phone company equipment, allowing calls to be placed and routed without charge.

For all practical purposes, the phenomenon has its roots in a cereal box. In the late 1960s, it was discovered that Captain Crunch cereal contained free plastic whistles that produced a tone of 2600 cycles per second. That frequency was a key to making a phone work for free.

Draper, with the scraggly black hair and horn-rimmed glasses of the proverbial mad scientist, learned this and other fascinating secrets after meeting a blind phreak in an accidental phone encounter.

Organ Triggers Phone

"Then I ran into Denny, who said he had 27 ways to make free phone calls," he recalled. "Denny invited me to meet his friend Jim, who told me he would make a free call by playing certain tones on an organ into a phone."

"I told him he was crazy because I didn't think the phone company was dumb enough to have a system so easy to break into. Anyway, Jim blew my mind. He dialed an 800 (toll free) number and hit an E above middle C on the organ. All of a sudden, the 800 number disappeared with a clunk. I heard a white noise, hissing, then he used the organ to key out the number I wanted. It worked."

Draper, with electronics training in the Air Force and San Jose City College, went home and fabricated his own organ to imitate phone signals. He fashioned a "Blue Box," a device which succeeded Captain Crunch whistles as the most prized possession in "phreakdom."

Calls His Friend

"That started me phone phreaking," Draper said with undisguised glee. "First, I called all my friends. Then, I thought, 'Wow: Here I am with the phone company at my fingertips. Free.'"

Now using a Blue Box to make free calls

is a violation of federal law, punishable by up to five years in prison and \$1,000 fine.

Crunch boasts of many elaborate phone feats unsanctioned by Ma Bell.

One call, he says, was routed around the world clockwise a few times, from San Francisco to London to Sidney to San Francisco, then around the world counter-clockwise a few times, covering the equivalent of half the distance to the moon.

Voice Rounds the World

He describes another experiment in a room with two phones, using one to call around the world to the second. "About eight seconds after I answered one phone, I listened on the second phone and heard myself answering the first phone," he said. "It took my voice that long to travel around the world."

In Draper's realm, information is power. New information, he says, is virtually controlled by about 10 super phreaks who reside in San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami, Denver, Hawaii, Ontario and Quebec, Canada.

Additionally, he says, there are numerous lower-echelon phone buffs as well as an estimated 10,000 Blue Box owners who have varying degrees of expertise in placement of free toll calls. They chat with one another and exchange information in conference calls on borrowed lines, using CB radio-type nicknames such as "The Cheshire Cat" or "Peter Perpendicular Pimple."

Tap Any Telephone

Last year, Draper said, he uncovered a way to use any telephone to tap virtually any telephone conversation in the country.

"I had stumbled onto the auto verify circuit," he explained. That is the circuit operators use to break into a conversation to tell a party that an emergency call is coming through.

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